

The Ehlers e-Newsletter

Monday, September 22, 2003

Last Week in the U.S. House of Representatives

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, U.S. CONSTITUTION, BILL OF RIGHTS BACK ON DISPLAY AT NATIONAL ARCHIVES – After more than two years of renovations, the public can view the original Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights in the Rotunda of the National Archives. The exhibit reopened Wednesday, Sept. 17, on the 216th anniversary of the Constitutional Convention's completion of the Constitution.

For more information, visit the National Archive's website at:

http://www.archives.gov/national_archives_experience/visit.html

PUBLIC WHITE HOUSE TOURS REINSTATED – As of last Wednesday, tours of the White House have been expanded to include parties of 10 or more people, regardless of age or type of group. Tour requests must be submitted through my Washington office and will be accepted up to six months in advance. These self-guided group tours will be scheduled approximately one month before the requested date, from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact my Washington office at (202) 225-3831.

For more information, visit the White House website at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/tours>

CONGRESS ADJOURNS EARLY TO AVOID HURRICANE ISABEL – In an effort to avoid the severe weather that affected the Mid-Atlantic region, including Washington, D.C., the U.S. House of Representatives adjourned business for the week Wednesday evening. Most government offices, schools and other public agencies such as the Washington Metro system were closed Thursday and Friday as a result of Hurricane Isabel, which caused hundred of millions of dollars worth of damage and knocked out power to millions of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and District of Columbia residents.

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2003

On Monday, the House will meet at 12 noon in a Pro Forma Session.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2003

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Suspensions (13 bills):

(Bills on suspension are generally considered non-controversial and have reduced debate time, but require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed.)

- 1) **H.Con.Res. 21 - Commemorating the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase.**
- 2) **H.Res. 362 - Recognizing the importance and contributions of sportsmen to American society, supporting the traditions and values of sportsmen, and**

recognizing the many economic benefits associated with outdoor sporting activities.

- 3) **H.R. 1113 - To authorize an exchange of land at Fort Frederica National Monument:** Located adjacent to the Fort Frederica National Monument on St. Simons Island, Georgia, The Christ Church has doubled in size over the last nine years. To address its need to expand, the Church has arranged to acquire, then exchange, 8.7 acres of historically significant land to the National Park Service for 4.8 acres in the Monument. The 8.7 acres to be exchanged is contiguous to the Monument.
- 4) **H.R. 1409 - Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Land Exchange Act of 2003:** Provides a land exchange between the National Park Service and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, whose reservation is located in western North Carolina. Land acquired by the tribe under this exchange would be used for the construction of a new educational campus for its youth.
- 5) **H.R. 2059 - Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark Act:** Designates Fort Bayard Historic District in the State of New Mexico as a National Historic Landmark. Fort Bayard was established in 1866 in southeastern New Mexico to protect Silver City and other nearby mining communities during ongoing fights with Apache Indians living in the area. Fort Bayard functioned as an Army post until 1899. Its soldiers, many of them African-American, or Buffalo Soldiers, protected area settlers. These Buffalo Soldiers were a mainstay of the Army during the late Apache wars and fought heroically in numerous skirmishes.
- 6) **S. 278 - Mount Naomi Wilderness Boundary Adjustment Act:** Makes certain adjustments to the boundaries of the Mount Naomi Wilderness Area. The Mount Naomi Wilderness Area (MNWA), located to the northeast of Logan, Utah, was created by the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. The MNWA is one of the largest wilderness areas in the state of Utah and provides many recreational opportunities for the residents of Cache County.
- 7) **H.R. 1209 - To extend the authority for the construction of a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr., in the District of Columbia:** Extends until November 12, 2006, the authority to construct a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr., on Federal lands in Washington, D.C. The extension would give the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (the site's sponsor) an additional three years to obtain the necessary funds and complete the project. Under current law, authority to construct the site will expire on November 12, 2003.
- 8) **S. 111 - To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the national significance of the Miami Circle site in the State of Florida as well as the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System as part of Biscayne National Park.**
- 9) **S. 233 - Coltsville Study Act of 2003:** Directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Coltsville in the State of Connecticut for potential inclusion in the National Park System. Coltsville, a site in Hartford, Connecticut, was inspired by Samuel Colt, founder of Colt Manufacturing Company and his wife, Elizabeth. Coltsville flourished during the Industrial Revolution spurring innovation not only in the production of firearms, but also with the development of technology that led to changes in the American way of life.

10) H.J.Res. 63 - Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003:

Authorizes and implements legislation for the amended Compacts of Free Association that the United States has renegotiated with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) over the past two years.

11) H.R. 2826 - Roberto Clemente Walker Post Office Building Designation Act (Carolina, Puerto Rico)

12) H.R. 2533 - J.C. Lewis, Jr. Post Office Building Designation Act (Savannah, Georgia)

13) H.R. 3087 - Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2003: Extends current law for five months. The bill provides continued funding for federal highway, transit, and highway safety programs using current law program structures and tie funding levels to the FY 2004 Budget Resolution. These programs continue to be protected by a budgetary firewall, which means that highway user fee revenues cannot be used for any other purpose and must be appropriated at the levels directed in the authorization for fiscal year 2004. Most importantly, the provision in the Internal Revenue Code that prohibits the expenditure of funds from the Highway Trust Fund after October 1, 2003 is amended to allow the Department of Transportation to disburse funds into next summer. This will keep the programs operating until Congress has time to act on a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill next spring.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 AND 25, 2003

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business

H.R. 2557 - Water Resources Development Act of 2003: Includes project authorizations, modifications, deauthorizations, studies, and policy initiatives for the Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works Program – the nation's largest water resources program. The bill authorizes and directs the Corps to carry out various studies, projects, and programs relating to navigation, flood damage reduction, shoreline protection, dam safety, water supply, recreation, environmental restoration and protection.

H.J.Res. XXX - Making Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2004:

Information about this bill was not available at publication time.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

On Friday, the House will not be in session.

Historical Tidbits

On Sept. 22 ...

1789 - The U.S. Congress authorized the office of Postmaster General.

1862 - U.S. President Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. It stated that all slaves held within rebel states would be free as of January 1, 1863.

1961 - U.S. President John F. Kennedy signed a congressional act that established the Peace Corps.

1975 - Sara Jane Moor attempted to assassinate U.S. President Gerald Ford. 17 days earlier Lynnette "Squeaky" Fromme made an assassination attempt against Ford.

1986 - U.S. President Ronald Reagan addressed the U.N. General Assembly and voiced a new hope for arms control. He also criticized the Soviet Union for arresting U.S. journalist Nicholas Daniloff.

1998 - The U.S. and Russia signed two agreements. One was to privatize Russia's nuclear program and the other was to stop plutonium stockpiles and nuclear scientists from leaving the country. U.S. President Clinton, addressed the United Nations, and told world leaders to "end all nuclear tests for all time". He then sent the long-delayed global test-ban treaty to the U.S. Senate.

On Sept. 23 ...

1806 - The Corps of Discovery, the Lewis and Clark expedition, reached St. Louis and ended the trip to the Pacific Northwest.

1991 - U.N. weapons inspectors find documents detailing Iraq's secret nuclear weapons program. The find in Baghdad triggered a standoff with authorities in Iraq.

On Sept. 24 ...

1789 - The U.S. Congress passed the First Judiciary Act. The act provided for an Attorney General and a Supreme Court.

1957 - U.S. President Eisenhower sent federal troops to Little Rock, AR, to enforce school integration.

1963 - The U.S. Senate ratified a treaty that limited nuclear testing. The treaty was between the U.S., Britain, and the Soviet Union.

1996 - The United States, represented by President Clinton, and the world's other major nuclear powers signed a treaty to end all testing and development of nuclear weapons.

On Sept. 25 ...

1789 - The first U.S. Congress adopted 12 amendments to the Constitution. Ten of the amendments became the Bill of Rights.

1981 - Sandra Day O'Connor became the first female justice of the U.S. Supreme Court when she was sworn in as the 102nd justice.

On Sept. 26 ...

1789 - Thomas Jefferson was appointed America's first Secretary of State. John Jay was appointed the first chief justice of the U.S. Samuel Osgood was appointed the first Postmaster-General. Edmund Jennings Randolph was appointed the first Attorney General.

1914 - The U.S. Federal Trade Commission was established.

1986 - William H. Rehnquist became chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court following the retirement of Warren Burger.

2000 - The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act. The act states that an infant would be considered to have been born alive if he or she is completely extracted or expelled from the mother and breathes and has a beating heart and definite movement of the voluntary muscles.

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